

# HOW YOU CAN HELP



Austin Resource Recovery relies on partnerships with private sector service providers, nonprofits, educational institutions, public agencies, the business community and Austin residents to make Zero Waste a reality.

## Get Involved!

### ***Become a Block Leader***

- Help neighbors practice proper set out of trash and recycling carts
- Educate the community about recycling, composting and Austin's Zero Waste goals and programs

Sign up to become a Block Leader in your neighborhood at [austinrecycles.com](http://austinrecycles.com).

### ***Become a Zero Waste Ambassador***

- Help monitor recycling, compost and trash containers at community events
- Volunteer at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility on a collection day

If you would like to volunteer please email [zerowaste.volunteer@austinrecycles.com](mailto:zerowaste.volunteer@austinrecycles.com).



[austinrecycles.com](http://austinrecycles.com) • 3-1-1

## AUSTIN'S ZERO WASTE GOAL

The City of Austin is committed to reducing the amount of waste sent to area landfills by 90 percent by 2040 or sooner, but we can't do it alone. In fact, the City of Austin collects just 25 percent of all the materials generated in Austin. We need leaders in the community to engage fellow Austinites and help move us toward practices that encourage reducing, reusing, recycling and rethinking.

Learn more at  
[austintexas.gov/zerowaste](http://austintexas.gov/zerowaste).

## STAY CONNECTED!

Stay up to date on Austin's progress toward Zero Waste!



Sign up for our e-newsletter at [austinrecycles.com](http://austinrecycles.com).



Like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/austinrecycles](https://facebook.com/austinrecycles).



## Start Composting

Rather than sending your food scraps and yard trimmings to the landfill, you can compost them to create a nutrient-rich fertilizer for your garden or lawn.

The City of Austin offers free composting classes. Find upcoming classes or watch a free class online at [austintexas.gov/composting](http://austintexas.gov/composting).



## Properly Dispose of Fats, Oils, and Grease

Never pour fats, oils or grease down the drain. Small quantities can be cooled, contained and thrown in the trash. You may take larger quantities to the City of Austin Household Hazardous Waste Facility for proper disposal.



## Stop Unwanted Mail at the Source

Sign up for Catalog Choice, a free Zero Waste service that stops waste at the source and keeps unwanted catalogs, credit card offers and other junk mail from cluttering your mailbox! Find more information at [catalogchoice.org](http://catalogchoice.org).



## Paint Your Home with Recycled Paint

Paint your home with Austin ReBlend paint, a 100 percent post-consumer, rebled flat paint (with low VOCs) made from paint collected at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility. For more information visit [austintexas.gov/hhw](http://austintexas.gov/hhw).



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## Follow the 4 Rs

Achieving Zero Waste requires new thinking about the way we buy, use and dispose of everyday items:

### **Rethink Your Purchases**

Before you buy, ask yourself:

- Can I buy this product with less packaging, or in a reusable container?
- Can I or someone else reuse or recycle this in the future?

Follow through:

- Buy products that are made to last
- Buy in bulk or select the largest container possible
- Avoid products that cannot be recycled in the City's recycling program, like plastic foam.

### **Reduce - Generate less trash**

Reuse products whenever possible, like these:

- Reusable water bottles and coffee mugs
- Reusable shopping bags
- Cloth towels and napkins
- Reusable food containers
- Rechargeable batteries

### **Reuse - Extend the life of what you have**

- Donate unwanted items to local charities, thrift stores or through online communities
- Take unwanted household chemicals to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility for proper recycling or disposal
- Take plastic shopping bags to local grocery stores for recycling

### **Recycle Right - Close the Loop**

- Recycle correctly and as often as possible. For more information visit [austintexas.gov/recycling](http://austintexas.gov/recycling).
- Responsibly recycle or dispose of old electronics. For more visit [tceq.texas.gov](http://tceq.texas.gov).
- Visit our A to Z guide to recycling, reusing, composting and more at [austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do](http://austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do).